

Message

From: Shaw, Hanh [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=60509321022B49A39F6F6F8DF62858DE-SHAW, HANH]
Sent: 5/30/2017 7:57:15 PM
To: Allnutt, David [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6e28f5bf9cbf4b8b9eda7751c2f10750-Allnutt, David]; Anderson-Carnahan, Linda [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c34cc9be6ab74896b7ea15338cbe41eb-Anderson-Carnahan, Linda]
CC: Thiesing, Mary [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b7b594716a844c65bd55c43a6b033f58-Thiesing, Mary Ann]; Bujak, Charissa [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b7145378c12f43df9e2bf70e7d951196-Bujak, Char]
Subject: Hot Issues

US 95 reroute/construction, Thorn Creek-Moscow, ID – The Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers has issued Public Notice NWW- 2004-0600046-B02, which identifies a proposal by the Idaho Department of Transportation (IDT) to construct 6.34 miles of new 4-lane divided highway for US-95. The proposal would permanently fill 3.43 acres of wetlands (3.23 acres of emergent and 0.20 acres of scrub-shrub) and discharge approximately 620 cubic yards of road fill materials below the ordinary high water mark of five (5) unnamed drainages. In July 2015, the Federal Highway Administration completed an EIS for the proposed project and issued a Record of Decision on March 21, 2016. EPA commented that the applicant's preferred alternative (E-2) did not appear to the LEDPA, since it proposes to fill considerably more wetland acreage and would result in the loss of more farmland than the other alternatives proposed. The impacts from the preferred alternative would result in loss of more rare and remnant Palouse prairie, which currently is approximately 1% of its estimated historic range. Some of the overall mitigation measures proposed could increase impacts to high value resources, and proposed deprioritizing of Palouse prairie restoration sites nearest to the E-2 alignment could decrease and undermine future restoration efforts. (Compensatory mitigation is proposed through an existing bank). Region 10 staff are currently coordinating with ID DEQ, ID DFG and the Corps to determine their positions on this project. The Paradise Ridge Defense Coalition has filed suit with IDT, and the litigation is ongoing. Comments on the Public Notice are due on June 16, 2017. (Contact: Charissa Bujak, 8-5754).

Hanh Shaw | Acting Manager
Aquatic Resources Unit
Office of Environmental Review and Assessment
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Region 10
P: 206-553-0171 | **E:** shaw.hanh@epa.gov